



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

# Programme Specification 2021–2022

Public Health  
(with additional specialist  
subject streams at MSc  
level)

MSc  
PGDip  
PGCert  
Individual courses

**Important document – please read**



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## Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 02 July 2021

### About this document

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the 'ask a question' button in the [student portal](#) otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

### Terminology

The following language is specific to the **Public Health** programmes:

**Modules:** Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

### Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The Senate Postgraduate Teaching Committee of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Any changes that may impact on continuing students are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

### Significant changes made to the programme specification 2021-2022:

There are no significant changes to the programme in 2021-2022.

## Alternative Assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID19) Outbreak

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please note that this statement replaces any published information relating to assessments or written examinations in any of our materials including the website. Previously published materials relating to examinations should therefore be read in conjunction with this statement.

The University of London continues to work towards supporting the academic progression of all its students. The University also continues to be mindful of the health and wellbeing of its students during this pandemic, whilst protecting the academic standards of its awards.

## Programme title and qualifications

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The qualification certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the qualification. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for the Public Health programmes is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the [Programme Regulations](#), under Scheme of Award.

### Programme title

Public Health

### Qualifications

Master of Science in Public Health

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

On successful completion of the MSc programme students will receive a Master's degree in Public Health which will reflect their choice of stream:

- Public Health
- Public Health (Environment and Health)
- Public Health (Health Promotion)
- Public Health (Health Services Management)

### Exit qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme.

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study of the same award with the University of London.

### Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis.

### Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science in Public Health- MSc

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health - PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health - PGCert

## Level of the programmes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The qualifications (including exit qualifications) are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

- MSc Level 7
- PGDip Level 7
- PGCert Level 7

Individual modules are offered at Level 7.

## Relevant QAA subject benchmarks

Not applicable

## Awarding body

University of London

## Registering bodies

University of London and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

## Academic direction

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

## Accreditation by professional or statutory body

None

## Language of study and assessment

English

## Mode of study

Flexible and online study

## Blended learning

Students may also be permitted to study up to two elective modules by blended learning in place of distance learning modules. Blended learning enables a student to combine distance learning with a period of part-time study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. An additional fee will be payable.

## Programme structures

The MSc Public Health\* consists of:

**Programme Specification 2021-2022 Public Health (and additional specialist subject streams) (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)**

<b>MSc Public Health</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five compulsory PHM1 modules</li> <li>• One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options</li> </ul>
<b>And either:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options</li> <li>• Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options</li> </ul>
<b>Or:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One elective PHM2 module selected from a list of options</li> <li>• Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options</li> <li>• A Project Report</li> </ul>

<b>MSc Public Health (Environment and Health)*</b> <b>MSc Public Health (Health Promotion)*</b> <b>MSc Public Health (Health Services Management)*</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five compulsory PHM1 modules (including stream-specific module)</li> <li>• One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options</li> </ul>
<b>And either:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One compulsory PHM2 module; and</li> <li>• Three elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and</li> <li>• Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options</li> </ul>
<b>Or:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One compulsory PHM2 module; and</li> <li>• Four elective modules selected from a list of options</li> <li>• A Project Report</li> </ul>

\* Detailed module options are provided in the Programme Regulations.

The PGDip Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Two additional elective modules selected from a list of options.

The PGCert Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two additional PHM1 modules selected from a list of options.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

**Maximum and minimum periods of registration**

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

## Programme Specification 2021-2022 Public Health (and additional specialist subject streams) (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)

Programme	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	Two years	Five years
PGDip	Two years	Five years
PGCert	One year	Five years
Credit bearing individual modules	One year	Two years

Study materials are made available at the start of the academic year after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

### Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to modules of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified FHEQ credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For the Public Health programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 10 or 15 UK credits or 5 or 7.5 ECTS credits for each module at FHEQ level 7
- 45 UK credits or 22.5 ECTS credits for the project at FHEQ level 7.

Each qualification equates to the following number of credits:

- MSc Public Health - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip Public Health - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits
- PGCert Public Health - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.



## Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place at an institution other than the University of London.

See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) and [Programme Regulations](#) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For the Public Health programmes the University of London may recognise your prior learning. This can only be considered at the point of application for the programme.

Further information on recognition of prior learning is on the [website](#).

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## Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the [website](#).

All details of the programme specific entry requirements are given on the [programme page](#), under the Requirements tab.

## English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the [Entry Requirements](#) tab. Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

## Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems. A webcam may be required in the event that online timed assessments (if offered) are proctored, and in such a case, it is a student's responsibility to ensure that they have a webcam.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (a latest version of Firefox or Chrome is recommended);
- a good internet connection;
- a CD/DVD-ROM drive (some modules only);
- screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater;
- sufficient internet bandwidth to enable downloading of essential learning materials that are up to approximately 50MB in size.

And the following applications installed:

- Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx);
- Microsoft Excel;
- a pdf reader.

### Additional requirements

- Students may need to use a calculator.
- A headset/microphone may be required to participate in live webinar sessions online.

### Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

### Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the [website](#)

## Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

The main educational aim of the LSHTM distance learning Public Health programmes is to offer a challenging, flexible scheme of study to provide students with the knowledge and skills to improve the health of populations, communities and particular groups within them. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in a range of public health subjects, including: the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases; the provision and evaluation of treatment and care; and the investigation and control of environmental threats to health. Students are encouraged to develop transferable and subject-specific skills to address multi-faceted and current health problems in their local setting, as well as internationally.

These programmes are primarily aimed at professionals who may already be involved in public health at a community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health- or development-related organizations. LSHTM's Public Health programme is a rigorous educational programme for practitioners, policy-makers or researchers who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding and increase their potential for career development in public health. Successful completion of the MSc will enable students to address local health problems and, at the same time, to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

The Public Health programmes aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the core disciplines in public health;
- enable students to understand key issues of public health;
- encourage independent critical and evaluative skills that can be used to apply well-founded scientific, social and economic judgements;
- provide students with a broad understanding of methodologies in public health research.

The learning outcomes of the Public Health programmes include:

### **Knowledge, intellectual and cognitive understanding**

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and methods of epidemiology, and their application in public health;
- understand the use of basic statistical methods and how to interpret research results, including use of statistical computer packages;
- recognise and evaluate the main concepts, principles, and practices of public health;
- demonstrate the critical skills needed in order to be able to read, appraise or commission social research for public health;
- apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health to real world health problems;
- carry out a project, evaluate critically their own work and produce a well-structured and well-written report (applies only to MSc students who elect to complete a project).

### **Transferable knowledge and skills**

Students will be able to:

- use problem solving skills in a range of situations;
- use fluent and effective communication and discussion skills in a written context;
- have a capacity to handle ideas and scrutinise information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.

Students who pass the PHM1 modules will have the essential introduction to a variety of methods, approaches and concepts concerning public health. MSc students and those registered for the PGDip will study the PHM2 modules and have the opportunity to study specific selected modules offered by some of the other DL programmes. These modules build on the knowledge gained from studying the PHM1 modules. Students will choose from options that advance their knowledge in specific areas.

## MSc students

MSc students may also apply the skills they have learnt to a particular problem in an area of their own interest if they elect to do a project report.

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## Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Students are advised to work through the materials, participate in self-learning activities and engage in discussions that take place within the module forums on the Moodle site.

Students are supported by teaching staff who provide feedback through the use of the PH Moodle site. Students are encouraged to post academic questions for the attention of tutors involved in delivering each module.

Advice and practical information, such as study techniques, planning and preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook (which is available online to students after registration) and the [Academic Writing Handbook](#). Students manage their own learning and study schedule, but advice can be sought from the support team at any stage of the academic year.

Students may also communicate with each other via the module-specific discussion forums and via the Student Café forum on the Moodle site. Students will be able to engage in dialogue and develop and negotiate ideas and problem-solving with fellow students and teaching staff, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills.

The PHM1 modules are each assessed by an unseen written examination that counts for 100% of their grade. The majority of the PHM2 modules are assessed by a written assignment and unseen written examination. The mark awarded for each PHM2 module will be weighted 30:70 (assignment : examination). Students should check the PHM2 module specifications for details of assessment method. Students who elect to study one or more of the EPM2, GHP2, IDM2, IDM5 modules open to PH students should consult the relevant module specification documents for details of the assessment methods. Students opting to take the PHM305 project option, are required to submit a report for assessment.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

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## Assessment methods

Each PHM1 module (MSc, PGDip and PGCert) will be assessed by one two-hour and 15 minute unseen written examination.

Each PHM2 module for the MSc and PGDip, will be assessed by one two-hour and 15 minute unseen written examination and/or by one or more written assignments. The grade awarded for each module will be weighted 70:30 (examination: assignment).

The Project Report (MSc only) will be assessed by submission of one written report of up to 10,000 words. It should normally be submitted in the final year of the degree.

The written examinations take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in June. These are held at established centres worldwide.

## Individual modules

A student may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit bearing individual modules for which they are registered. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be examined in the same way as students studying for a full award.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the [website](#).

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## Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of issues from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- [Programme Regulations](#)
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

### Support and guidance from LSHTM

- The LSHTM online learning site (Moodle). This gives online access to the module materials (note if the module materials include a textbook, this will be made available to students in hardcopy or e-format) module discussion forums, information on assignments, links to essential and recommended readings (where available), past examination papers and examiner reports, and study skills' resources.
- [LSHTM online library](#) resources.
- Student support staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Programme Directors can also be contacted for personal advice e.g. planning studies, advice on elective module options. Communication may either be via the online 'Student Support Help' discussion forum on Moodle or by email, and sometimes by Skype if needed.
- Each module has at least one Module Organiser (MO) and a team of tutors assigned to it. The tutor team provides academic support to those studying specific modules, in the following ways:
  - assisting in interpreting and understanding the material presented by answering queries on the online discussion forums
  - grading and providing written feedback on the assignments
  - offering some real-time 'webinars' in which students are encouraged to participate.

- The tutors are specialists in their subject area, and will change according to the module being followed at the time.
- A project supervisor works with students undertaking the project in the final year of the MSc.
- An LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available on the LSHTM Moodle site, provides guidance on all aspects of the programme. It includes background information about the programme; advice on getting started, studying as a distance learner and organising study time; a description of the resources and programme materials available and how to access them; advice on networking and support issues; and details of procedures for assessment and examinations (including programme deadlines).

Students are encouraged to exchange ideas with other students on the programme and to organise mutual support via email or other forms of communication. An online discussion forum 'Student Cafe' is available within the LSHTM Moodle site which is accessible to students only, while individual contact details can be made available through the Student Network Directory (subject to student consent). This contains contact details of other students on the programme so students can build up their own network if they wish (for example, to organise study groups).

## Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its flexible and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and member institutions of the University of London. However some of the flexible and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London, and are delivered without academic lead by a member institutions. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The Quality Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, [programme specific regulations](#).

## Awards standards

All University of London qualifications have to align with the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#) to assure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every programme that is developed by a member institution of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one member institution) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

## Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;

- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics: prepared for all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and up-to-date.

Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

### **Student feedback and engagement**

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every two years, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

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## **After graduation**

### **Further study**

Successful completion of the programme may serve as preparation for students who wish to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

### **Graduate employment routes**

The programmes will be relevant for those wishing to increase their potential for career development in public health at a community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health or development related organizations.

### **The Alumni Community**

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

## Programme Specification 2021-2022 Public Health (and additional specialist subject streams) (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)